(b) if so, the details of the changes that is being contemplated in the examination pattern; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Assessment of RTI Act

276. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made to assess the working of the Right to Information Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether general public still face undue hardships in getting the information in time; and

(e) if so, the mechanism proposed to be made to provide complete information to the public in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The Government has not yet undertaken any study to review the working of the Right to Information Act.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Act contains sufficient provisions to ensure supply of correct and complete information within the prescribed time.

Population surviving with Rs. 20 per day

277. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Sample Survey data reveals that there are many, who survives with Rs. 20 or below a day;

(b) if so, the details including the number of above citizens for the last five years, State-wise, category-wise, year-wise and family-wise;

(c) if so, the number of people below poverty line for the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) if so, the criteria adopted to determine the poverty line as on today; and

(e) if so, whether the Competent Authority would initiate step to evolve new criteria for delineating the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Based on the percentage of rural and urban population below specified levels of monthly per capita concumption expenditure (MPCE) given in the Report No. 508 (61/1.01), 'Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-05', of NSS 61st Round (July 2004-June 2005) brought out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, the per capita consumption expenditure of 60.5% of the population is less than Rs. 20 per day in 2004-05. In terms of number, this constitutes 66.2 crore persons in 2004-05.

(b) The State-wise percentage of persons with per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 20 per day in rural and urban areas in 2004-05 estimated from the National Sample Survey (NSS) data on consumer expenditure, relating to the 61st Round is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Large sample survey data on consumer expenditure are available once in approximately five years. As such, the estimates for each of the last five years are not available. Such information at the level of families are not available.

(c) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at the National and State level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee). The latest estimate of poverty is available for the year 2004-05. As such, the poverty estimates for each of the last five years are not available. The two latest comparable estimate of poverty are available for the years 1993-94 and 2004-05 estimated from the large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure of the 50th and 61st Rounds of NSS respectively. The State-wise estimates of the number of poor in 1993-94 and 2004-05 are given in the Statement-II and Statement-III respectively (*See* below).

(d) The Planning Commission uses a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. The poverty line is expressed in terms of per capita consumption expenditure needed to attain a minimum amount of calorie intake out of food consumption along with a minimum amount of non-food expenditure in order to meet the requirements of clothing, shelter, transport etc. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The State-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using State-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The national poverty line at 2004-05 prices is Rs. 356 per capital per month in the rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita per month in the urban areas.

(e) There is no such proposal, at the moment.

Statement-I

State-wise Details of Percentage of Population with per capita consumption of Rs. 20 per day by States-2004-05

Sl.No.	States/U.Ts	Rural	Urban
		Percentage of Persons	Percentage of Persons
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	67.1	34.8
2	Assam	67.5	24.4
3	Bihar	89.1	56.8
4	Chhattisgarh	87.5	44.6
5	Delhi	37.0	14.1
6	Gujarat	63.7	18.8

1	2	3	4
7	Haryana	40.8	23.9
8	Himachal Pradesh	43.9	8.1
9	Jammu & Kashmir	37.1	11.1
10	Jharkhand	86.9	34.5
11	Karnataka	80.4	32.6
12	Kerala	33.5	24.2
13	Madhya Pradesh	83.9	45.4
14	Maharashtra	70.4	26.8
15	Orissa	86.9	51.3
16	Punjab	38.1	19.9
17	Rajasthan	66.7	38.0
18	Tamil Nadu	69.8	28.4
19	Uttar Pradesh	75.5	46.1
20	Uttarakhand	60.9	32.1
21	West Bengal	70.8	30.8
	All-India:	71.9	32.3

Statement-II

State-wise details of Percentage and Number of Persons—1993-94

Sl.No.	State/U.Ts	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	Percentage of Persons
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	153.97	22.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.73	39.35
3.	Assam	96.36	40.86
4.	Bihar	493.35	54.96
5.	Goa	1.91	14.92
6.	Gujarat	105.19	24.21
7.	Haryana	43.88	25.05
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.86	28.44
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	20.92	25.17
10.	Karnataka	156.46	33.16
11.	Kerala	76.41	25.43

1	2	3	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	298.52	42.52
13.	Maharashtra	305.22	36.86
14.	Manipur	6.80	33.78
15.	Meghalaya	7.38	37.92
16.	Mizoram	1.94	25.66
17.	Nagaland	5.05	37.92
18.	Orissa	160.60	48.56
19.	Punjab	25.11	11.77
20.	Rajasthan	128.50	27.41
21.	Sikkim	1.84	41.43
22.	Tamil Nadu	202.10	35.03
23.	Tripura	11.79	39.01
24.	Uttar Pradesh	604.46	40.85
25.	West Bengal	254.56	35.66
26.	A & N Island	1.06	34.47
27.	Chandigarh	0.80	11.35
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.77	50.84
29.	Daman & Diu	0.18	15.80
30.	Delhi	15.51	14.69
31.	Lakshadweep	0.14	25.04
32.	Pondicherry	3.31	37.40
	All India:	3203.68	35.97

Note:

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A&N Island.
3. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.
4. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
7. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
8. Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir.

Statement-III

State-wise details of Percentage and Number of Persons-2004-05

(Based on URP-Consumption)

Sl.No.	States/U.Ts	Percentage of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.8	126.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	17.6	2.03
3.	Assam	19.7	55.77
4.	Bihar	41.4	369.15
5.	Chhattisgarh	40.9	90.96
6.	Delhi	14.7	22.93
7.	Goa	13.8	2.01
8.	Gujarat	16.8	90.69
9.	Haryana	14.0	32.10
10.	Himachal Pradesh	10.0	6.36
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.4	5.85
12.	Jharkhand	40.3	116.39
13.	Karnataka	25.0	138.89
14.	Kerala	15.0	49.60
15.	Madhya Pradesh	38.3	249.68
16.	Maharashtra	30.7	317.38
17.	Manipur	17.3	3.95
18.	Meghalaya	18.5	4.52
19.	Mizoram	12.6	1.18
20.	Nagaland	19.0	3.99
21.	Orissa	46.4	178.49
22.	Punjab	8.4	21.63
23.	Rajasthan	22.1	134.89
24.	Sikkim	20.1	1.14
25.	Tamil Nadu	22.5	145.62
26.	Tripura	18.9	6.38
27.	Uttar Pradesh	32.8	590.03

1	2	3	4
28.	Uttaranchal	39.6	35.96
29.	West Bengal	24.7	208.36
30.	A&N Islands	22.6	0.92
31.	Chandigarh	7.1	0.74
32.	Dadra & N. Haveli	33.2	0.84
33.	Daman & Diu	10.5	0.21
34.	Lakshadweep	16.0	0.11
35.	Pondicherry	22.4	2.37
	ALL-INDIA:	27.5	3017.21

URP Consumption=Consumption data for all the items are collected using 30-day Recall Period.

Notes:

1 Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.

2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.

3. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A&N Island.

4. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.

5 Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra and Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

6 Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman and Diu.

7 Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

Programme for poor population

278. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the current population of the country, rural and urban separately;

(b) the number of poor and the rich out of the above;

(c) the housing, employment opportunities and disbursement of food items planned and implemented for the poor, both rural and urban, during the last three years;

(d) whether no data of the poor has been complied for the last three years; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the basis and manner in which plans are made, implemented and funds earmarked and expended on various programmes for the poor during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) As per the Report of Technical Group on Population Projections constituted by the National Commission on Population entitled, 'Population Projections for